

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTREAL 1425

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJ: ICAO: ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT AND SECGEN

1. DURING VANCOUVER OFFICIAL VISIT BY COUNCIL AND SECGEN THERE WAS MUCH INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT, ETC. IT IS NOW GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT COUNCIL WILL ELECT KOTAITE, THE PRESENT SECGEN TO THE PRESIDENCY. THERE ARE NO OTHER KNOWN CANDIDATES AND PRESIDENT COUNCIL HAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED THAT HE IS NOT AWARE OF ANY OTHERS.
2. KOTAITE HAS ADVISED USREP CONFIDENTIALLY THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO BEIRUT IN JULY HE MET WITH TOP OFFICIALS INCLUDING MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND SUBSEQUENTLY HIS GOVERNMENT CABLED TO BINAGHI THE INTENT OF LEBANON TO FORMALLY NOMINATE KOTAITE. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE OFFICIAL NOMINATION LETTER WHICH IS BEING HAND-CARRIED BY ABOUCHACRA, LEBANON'S COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE WHEN HE RETURNS FROM LEBANON IN TIME FOR DIPCONF NEXT WEEK.
3. ONLY THE LATIN AMERICANS ARE RELUCTANT TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT CANDIDACIES BUT USREP ATTRIBUTES THIS TO FACT THAT ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL HAVE NEW REPRESENTATIVES AND SIX SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNCIL REPS ARE MISSING THE DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP OF LAMI DOZO. BINAGHI BEING CLOSE TO LA CAUCUS WOULD BE AWARE OF ANY PROBLEMS IN THAT AREA AND SINCE LA HAS HAD THE PRESIDENCY FOR THE PAST
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15 YEARS THEY OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT ANTICIPATE NOMINATING A

REPLACEMENT.

4. RUMORS AND DISCUSSIONS ARE CENTERING ON REPLACEMENT FOR THE SECGEN. (A) DURING VANCOUVER VISIT CANADIAN REP BEDARD INITIATED INTEREST IN HIMSELF WHICH MET WITH ACROSS THE BOARD NEGATIVE REACTION AND SUBSEQUENTLY PRESIDENT COUNCIL TOLD USREP HE WAS "HORRIFIED" AT THIS POSSIBILITY AND HOPED IT HAD BEEN STOPPED. PRESIDENT TOLD USREP THAT IF CANADA WERE TO BE SOURCE OF A NOMINEE IT SHOULD BE WALTER MCLEISH, DIRECTOR GENERAL CIVIL AERONAUTICS. (B) ONE OF MANY ALTERNATIVES DISCUSSED IN VANCOUVER WAS AIR VICE MARSHALL RUSSELL, UK COUNCIL REP. HIS TECHNICAL BACKGROUND AND KEEN ADMINISTRATIVE SENSE AS EXHIBITED FOR SEVERAL YEARS IN ICAO CAUSED SEVERAL MEMBERS TO SPEAK FAVORABLY ABOUT HIS QUALIFICATIONS. HOWEVER, HIS AGE (60) AND OTHER PROBLEMS WERE MENTIONED FREQUENTLY AND THE CONSENSUS FINALLY WAS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THIS ALTERNATIVE FOR SECGEN.

5. LYNN JACOB OF AUSTRALIA IS A POSSIBILITY. IN OPINION USREP, USCOMMISSIONER AND PRESIDENT COUNCIL HIS WORK IN ICAO OVER THE YEARS HAS BEEN EXCELLENT ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE AND HIS LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE WOULD INDICATE ADMINISTRATIVE ORIENTATION. HE HAS CHAIRED WORLD-WIDE MEETINGS AS WELL AS SMALLER TECHNICAL BODIES AND IS GOOD IN PERSONAL RELATIONS AND MUCH RESPECTED. JACOB'S AGE HAD BEEN ERRONEOUSLY GIVEN TO USREP AS 58, HOWEVER WE NOW LEARN THAT HE IS 52.

6. USREP SUGGESTS THAT DEPT MIGHT WANT TO ASCERTAIN DISCREETLY AND PRELIMINARILY FROM EMBASSY CANBERRA (A) STATUS OF JACOB'S GOVERNMENT SERVICE (HE WAS PLACED IN MARITIME AGENCY BY PRESENT GOVERNMENT, AND (B) ANY PERSONAL FACTORS THAT MIGHT INFLUENCE HIS AVAILABILITY. COMMENTS FROM FAA/IA WOULD BE HELPFUL SINCE JACOB WAS A COMMISSIONER AND PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION AS WELL AS ACTIVE IN MANY ICAO AD HOC BODIES.

7. BINAGHI WILL SCHEDULE ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT NOVEMBER 3 IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO ADVERTISE SYG VACANCY IMMEDIATELY (IT IS REGULARLY ADVERTISED LATE OCTOBER FOR REGULAR TRIENNIAL ELECTION SECGEN. ADVERTISEMENT WILL REQUEST NOMINATIONS BEFORE MARCH WITH ELECTION NEW SECGEN EARLY APRIL AT LATEST. USREP CONTINUES TO CONFIDENTIAL

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FEEL THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE COMMITMENTS AMONG COUNCIL MEMBERS ON SECGENSHIP TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE PRIOR TO ELECTION PRESIDENT.

8. HAVING IN MIND SOME TRAFFIC ON THIS SUBJECT (ESPECIALLY BUENOS AIRES 5352, USREP WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT PRESIDENT AND SECGEN ARE ELECTED BY THE COUNCIL NOT REPEAT NOT THE ASSEMBLY.

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